ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY

An Education in the Franciscan Tradition

Philosophy | Major

"The one-on-one focus in the Philosophy Department makes me feel like I am an individual and not just a number." —Matthew Galvin '09, Shillington, PA

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

Alvernia is a Franciscan university dedicated to the ideals of professional service, community service and personal fulfillment. Courses in Philosophy are designed to acquaint students with fundamental principles and methods and to develop skills in critical thinking and analysis. Studying Philosophy helps to develop the "whole person" by cultivating a sense of wonder, love of learning and curiosity about ideas and culture and by encouraging the critical self-reflection and openness to new possibilities for thought that make independent thinking and rich living possible.

Philosophy classes at Alvernia incorporate the works of great writers and thinkers in order to help students develop their written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, problem solving abilities and their capacities to understand other perspectives. As do all liberal arts majors, Philosophy provides the vehicle for developing strong, marketable skills such as knowing how to find information, how to understand people and their arguments, how to connect rigorous and persuasive arguments and how to make connections and see the "big picture."

The faculty is committed to providing students with a strong understanding of the Catholic tradition and the role it has played in the history of thought. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of Christian values in the personal quest "to live a life worth living," and recognizes a special responsibility to distinguish between the philosophical and theological sources of knowledge. The Theology faculty strives to encourage students to reflect carefully and critically about fundamental questions of meaning, value and goodness.

ACADEMIC QUALITY

The department offers a major and a minor in Philosophy. A major in Philosophy will prepare students for graduate studies and provide a solid foundation for law school or other professional pursuits. A minor in Philosophy may be taken in conjunction with any major and can help students develop a more thoughtful perspective in their fields of interest.

The O'Pake Institute for Ethics, Leadership, and Public Service at Alvernia University is an interdisciplinary initiative for dialogue on ethics and leadership among members of the Alvernia community, the local and regional communities and colleagues throughout the academy that broaden student learning.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Author
Columnist
Diplomat
Journalist
Lawyer
Lobbyist
Paralegal
Professor
Public Service Official
Researcher

(see back for Curriculum Overview)

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Bachelor Degree Requirements (30 Credits)

PHI 105 Introduction to Philosophy
PHI 230 Introduction to Logic
PHI 351 Ancient Philosophy
PHI 353 Modern Philosophy

Choose one of the following:
PHI 200 Ethics: Values and Quality of Life
PHI 210 Professional Ethics
PHI 420 Social and Political Philosophy

Any additional 15 elective credits in Philosophy (at least one should be a 400 level course)

Minor Degree Requirements (18 Credits)
Any 18 credits in Philosophy

CONTACT INFORMATION

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